

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) In a network environment that includes a receiving computing system capable of receiving messages from other computing systems in the network environment, the receiving computing system including a dispatching ~~component~~ mechanism that dispatches a received message to groups of one or more methods for further processing, a method for the dispatching mechanism to dispatch a received message without having direct access to at least a portion of information relevant for the dispatch, the information not being included in the message as received by the receiving computing system, the method comprising the following:

an act of receiving a message at the receiving computing system;

an act of passing the received message through one or more receiving path components that are positioned in the receiving path of the message prior to being passed to the dispatching ~~component~~ mechanism, the passing of the received message to the dispatching ~~component~~ mechanism occurring within the receiving computing system, each of the receiving path components in the receiving path being components of the receiving computing system;

an act of at least one of the one or more receiving path components modifying the message with at least one modification, the modification including adding information ~~that is not included in the received message, that is relevant to the dispatch of the message, the information being added during the modification by the dispatching mechanism~~, the information being used by the dispatching mechanism to dynamically dispatch the message to an appropriate message processing method selected from a group of message processing methods, the methods being configured to process the content of the message according to the type of information included in the message;

an act of the dispatching mechanism receiving the modified message from the receiving path within the receiving computing system; ~~and~~

an act of the dispatching mechanism evaluating the added information relevant to the dispatch of the message to determine an appropriate message processing method based on those portions of information added to the modified message; and

based on the information obtained in the modification, an act of the dispatching mechanism using the obtained information to dynamically dispatch the message to an appropriate message processing method selected from the group of message processing methods within the receiving computing system for further processing, the dispatching comprising transferring the modified received message to the group of message processing methods within the receiving computing system for further specialized message content processing based on the type of information included in the modification.

2. (Previously Presented) The method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the message includes a Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) envelope, and wherein the act of at least one of the one or more receiving path components modifying the messages comprises the following:

an act of adding a SOAP header with additional information to the message.

3. (Previously Presented) The method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the act of at least one of the one or more receiving path components modifying the messages comprises the following:

an act of adding at least one data field to the message.

4. (Previously Presented) The method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the act of at least one of the one or more receiving path components modifying the messages comprises the following:

an act of modifying at least one data field in the message.

5. (Previously Presented) The method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the act of at least one of the one or more receiving path components modifying the messages comprises the following:

an act of deleting at least one data field from the message.

6. (Previously Presented) The method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the act of at least one of the one or more receiving path components modifying the message comprises the following:

an act of a receiving component modifying the message.

7. (Previously Presented) The method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the act of at least one of the one or more receiving path components modifying the message comprises the following:

an act of a receiving path component other than the receiving component modifying the message.

8. (Previously Presented) The method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the act of at least one of the one or more receiving path components modifying the message comprises the following:

an act of a single receiving path component modifying the message.

9. (Previously Presented) The method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the act of at least one of the one or more receiving patch components modifying the message comprises the following:

an act of a plurality of receiving path components modifying the message.

10. (Previously Presented) The method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the at least one modification includes a connection identification identifying a connection that the message was received over.

11. (Previously Presented) The method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the at least one modification includes a protocol type used to receive the message.

12. (Previously Presented) The method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the at least one modification includes a time that the message was received.

13. (Previously Presented) The method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the at least one modification includes information related to a handling priority of the message.

14. (Previously Presented) The method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the at least one modification includes information related to a status of a sender of the message.

15. (Previously Presented) The method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the at least one modification includes information related to load of the computing system.

16. (Currently Amended) The method in accordance with Claim 1, ~~wherein the act of the dispatching mechanism using the at least one modification to dispatch the message to a group of one or more message processing methods for further processing comprises the following further comprising:~~

an act of accessing a dispatch rule that references the added information ~~present in the at least one modification to the~~ modified message to identify which group of message processing methods to send the message to; and

an act of dispatching the message to the identified group according to both the dispatch rule and the added information.

17. (Previously Presented) The method in accordance with Claim 16, wherein the dispatch rule is expressed using one or more XPATH statements.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for use in a network environment that includes a receiving computing system capable of receiving messages from other computing systems in the network environment, the receiving computing system including a dispatching ~~component~~ mechanism that dispatches a received message to groups of one or more methods for further processing, the computer program product for performing a method for the dispatching mechanism to dispatch a received message without having direct access to at least a portion of information relevant for the dispatch, the information not being included in the message as received by the receiving computing system, the computer program product comprising one or more recordable-type computer-readable media having thereon computer-executable instructions that, when executed by one or more processors of the computing system, cause the computing system to perform the following:

an act of accessing a received message, the message being received at the receiving computing system;

an act of a receiving path component modifying the received message with at least one modification, the modification including adding information ~~that is not~~ included in the received message, ~~that is relevant to the dispatch of the message, the information being added during the modification by the dispatching mechanism,~~ the information being used by the dispatching mechanism to dynamically dispatch the message to an appropriate message processing method selected from a group of message processing methods, the methods being configured to process the content of the message according to the type of information included in the message; ~~and~~

an act of the dispatching mechanism evaluating the added information relevant to the dispatch of the message to determine an appropriate message processing method based on those portions of information added to the modified message; and

an act of providing the modified message at least indirectly through one or more other receiving path components within the receiving computing system to the dispatching mechanism so that the dispatching mechanism, based on the information obtained in the modification may use the obtained information to dynamically dispatch the message to an appropriate message processing method selected from the group of message processing methods within the receiving computing system for further processing, the dispatching comprising transferring the modified received message to the group of message processing methods within the receiving computing

system for further specialized message content processing based on the type of information included in the modification.

19-22. (Cancelled).

23. (Previously Presented) The computer program product in accordance with Claim 18, wherein the at least one modification includes a connection identification identifying a connection that the message was received over.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer program product in accordance with Claim 18, wherein the at least one modification includes a protocol type used to receive the message.

25. (Previously Presented) The computer program product in accordance with Claim 18, wherein the at least one modification includes a time that the message was received.

26. (Previously Presented) The computer program product in accordance with Claim 18, wherein the at least one modification includes information related to a handling priority of the message.

27-31. (Cancelled).

32. (Currently Amended) In a network environment that includes a receiving computing system capable of receiving messages from other computing systems in the network environment, the receiving computing system including a dispatching ~~component~~ mechanism that dispatches a received message to groups of one or more methods for further processing, a method for the dispatching mechanism to dispatch a received message without having direct access to at least a portion of information relevant for the dispatch, the information not being included in the message as received by the receiving computing system, the method comprising the following:

a step for modifying a received message with at least one modification prior to being provided to the dispatching mechanism, the modification including adding information ~~that is not included in the received message, that is relevant to the dispatch of the message, the information being added during the modification by the dispatching mechanism,~~ the information being used by the dispatching mechanism to dynamically dispatch the message to an appropriate message processing method selected from a group of message processing methods, the methods being configured to process the content of the message according to the type of information included in the message; ~~and~~

an act of the dispatching mechanism evaluating the added information relevant to the dispatch of the message to determine an appropriate message processing method based on those portions of information added to the modified message; and

based on the information obtained in the modification, an act of the dispatching mechanism using the obtained information to dynamically dispatch the message to an appropriate message processing method selected from the group of message processing methods within the receiving computing system for further processing, the dispatching comprising transferring the modified received message to the group of message processing methods within the receiving computing system for further specialized message content processing based on the type of information included in the modification.

33. (Currently Amended) The method in accordance with Claim 32, wherein the step for modifying a received message comprises the following:

an act of receiving the message at the receiving computing system;

an act of passing the received message through one or more receiving path components that are positioned in the receiving path of the message prior to being passed to the dispatching ~~component~~ mechanism, the passing of the received message to the dispatching ~~component~~ mechanism occurring within the receiving computing system, each of the receiving path components in the receiving path being components of the receiving computing system;

an act of at least one of the one or more receiving path components modifying the message with at least one modification, the modification including information that is not included in the received message; and

an act of the dispatching mechanism receiving the modified message from the receiving path within the receiving computing system.



34. (Currently Amended) A computing system comprising the following:

one or more processors;

system memory;

one or more computer-readable media having thereon computer-executable instructions that, when executed by the one or more processors, causes the computing system to perform the following:

an act of receiving a message at the receiving computing system;

an act of passing the received message through one or more receiving path components that are positioned in the receiving path of the message prior to being passed to the dispatching ~~component~~ mechanism, the passing of the received message to the dispatching ~~component~~ mechanism occurring within the receiving computing system, each of the receiving path components in the receiving path being components of the receiving computing system;

an act of at least one of the one or more receiving path components modifying the message with at least one modification, the modification including adding information ~~that is not~~ included in the received message, that is relevant to the dispatch of the message, the information being added during the modification by the dispatching mechanism, the information being used by the dispatching mechanism to dynamically dispatch the message to an appropriate message processing method selected from a group of message processing methods, the methods being configured to process the content of the message according to the type of information included in the message;

an act of the dispatching mechanism receiving the modified message from the receiving path within the receiving computing system; and

an act of the dispatching mechanism evaluating the added information relevant to the dispatch of the message to determine an appropriate message processing method based on those portions of information added to the modified message; and

based on the information obtained in the modification, an act of the dispatching mechanism using the obtained information to dynamically dispatch the message to an appropriate message processing method selected from the group of message processing methods within the receiving computing system for further processing, the dispatching comprising transferring the modified received message to the group of message processing methods within

the receiving computing system for further specialized message content processing based on the type of information included in the modification.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising an act of selecting an appropriate method from the group of methods, wherein the selection is based on the type of information included in the modification.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein each type of information included in the modification is a factor in determining which method to select.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the message is dispatched to a method appropriate for the protocol.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the body of the received message is modified to include information not included in the received message.

39. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the added information includes at least two of the following: the connection over which the message was received, the protocol type used to receive the message, the time that the message was received, a handling priority of the message, a status of a sender of the message and a current processing load of the receiving computing system.

40. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein modifying the message includes deleting at least a portion of information from the message, such that the dispatching of the message is affected by the deletion.

41. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein modifying the message includes overwriting at least a portion of information in the message with another portion of information, such that the dispatching of the message is affected by the modification.

42. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

the dispatching mechanism determining that a modification was made to the message;  
and

based on the determination that a modification was made, and regardless of which modification was made, dispatching the message as a result of determining that a modification was made.

43. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein modifying the message includes at least two of adding information, deleting information, and overwriting information, such that the dispatching of the message is affected by the modification.